

February

How-To: *Manage your non-hazardous household waste*

By managing non-hazardous waste at home, residents can help make sure their community is able to provide low-cost hazardous waste disposal for the long term.

How do I know if something is hazardous?

Household products with the words *danger*, *warning*, *toxic*, *corrosive*, *flammable*, or *caution* should not be poured down your drain, thrown in your trash, or let to drip down your driveway. Take these items to Metro Waste Authority's Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste in Bondurant.

Here are some other key phrases that can indicate if something is hazardous:

- "Harmful or fatal if swallowed"
- "Do not use near heat or flame"
- "Causes severe burns on contact"

The most common hazardous materials found in the household

- In the shop or in storage: herbicides, fertilizers, insecticides, insect repellent, rodent killer, garden sprays
- In the garage: aerosols, cleaning agents, asphalt/roofing tar, glues/adhesives, paint, varnish, paint thinner, strippers, solvents, flammable oils, gasoline, kerosene, antifreeze, motor oil, household batteries, lead acid batteries, photography chemicals, , pool chemicals, other chemicals
- In the closet: general cleaning agents, fluorescent light bulbs, carpet cleaner, furniture cleaner, pet supplies
- In the bathroom: drain cleaners, rust and stain removers, toilet bowl cleaners, grout sealer

For more information on storing, disposing or managing chemicals, call Metro Waste Authority's Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste at (515) 967-5512 or visit www.mwatoday.com.

Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste

225 Prairie Drive SW
Bondurant, IA 50035

Tuesday – Friday

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturday

Open the first and third Saturday of each month 8:00 a.m. to noon

Myth and Fact for February

Myth – Plastics are the biggest problem at our landfills.

FACT – Actually plastic only makes up 20-24% of space by volume and 16% when compacted. The number of objects made from plastic has been increasing, but the industry is light-weighting, substantially reducing the amount of material used in soda bottles, milk jugs, etc. Lighter, thinner, and more crushable. For example, in 1974 plastic soda bottles weighed 67 grams, while today's weigh 48 grams. Not only do light-weighted plastics save landfill volume, they also save transportation energy. The result is that more plastic items can be squeezed into a given volume of landfill space today than could fit 10 or 20 years ago. Paper makes up the biggest percentage – up to 40% in some landfills, newspaper makes up 13% alone.